

LETTERS *to the Editor*

This Also for the Ears

To the Editor: Regarding "Eye Drops for the Ears" quoted from Dr. Allen Dekelboum's Audio-Digest tape [Calif Med 116:93, Mar 1972], a suitable preparation to also consider would be fluocinolone acetonide solution (Synalar®, Fluonid®) which is made up in a base of propylene glycol.

LEO M. POMERANTZ, M.D.
Beverly Hills

Special Phones for the Handicapped

To the Editor: Physicians, the general public and handicapped people are often not aware of the many helpful services available to them from their local telephone company. The services include two types of telephones for the deaf, one a signal operated flashing answer, and the other with a sending key and receiving vibrating pad. There are aids for people who are hard-of-hearing and those with impaired vision.

Aids for the motion handicapped include special dialing systems, touch tone dialing, headsets and many others. Often the service is especially prepared for the handicapped patient.

A pamphlet "Services for Special Services" is available and every physician should be familiar with these services. For many reasons, not all

telephone personnel know of these aids and you should call the business office and ask for the "communications consultant in marketing." Many telephone companies in California are small but they can obtain consultation from larger companies if they do not have the necessary information available in their own office.

ROBERTA FENLON, M.D.
San Francisco

The Dancing Eyes of Neuroblastoma

To the Editor: The recent excellent article by Finkelstein and Gilchrist on neuroblastoma (Calif Med 116:27-36, Mar 1972) makes no reference to the important cerebellar syndrome of mental change, ataxia and peculiar eye movements (termed opsoclonus) described in many cases of neuroblastoma. The jerky, conjugate but asymmetrical "dancing eye" movements in all directions were first noted in two infants with neuroblastoma by Solomon and Chutorian in 1968.¹ A number of other cases have been described but both the pathophysiology and the neuropathology remain unknown.² The important practical points are that this neurological syndrome be appreciated as an early sign of the tumor, so that appropriate tumor therapy can be undertaken sooner rather than later; and also that the syndrome not be mistaken for metastasis.

FORBES H. NORRIS, JR., M.D.
San Francisco

REFERENCES

1. Solomon GE, Chutorian AM: Opsoclonus and occult neuroblastoma, N Engl J Med 279:475-477, 1968
2. Norris, FH Jr: Surveys of progress—The remote effects of cancer on the nervous system. Z Neurol 201:201-210, 1972